LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently amended) A home page automatic update system comprising:

a home page management unit reading out an HTML document from a home page database in response to a request from a user terminal, and transmitting the readout HTML document to the user terminal;

a patrol search unit extracting update data by executing in turn a reception process of a mail message stored in a mail server, an extraction process of update data of an HTML document stored in the home page database, a file search process in a management terminal, and a search process of schedule data in a storage device on the basis of a ~~variable selected from the group consisting of a predetermined~~ patrol time, a ~~predetermined~~ patrol order, a ~~predetermined~~ number of times patrol is to be carried out, <u>and</u> a ~~predetermined~~ setting regarding whether or not to cause patrol to be carried out, ~~and any combinations thereof~~ <u>which determine the order of priority for accessing the mail server, the home page database, the management terminal, and the storage device, said order of priority being determined in advance</u>; and

an update data generation unit generating update HTML data on the basis of the extracted update data,

wherein the management terminal is allowed to set ~~said variable~~ <u>the patrol time, patrol order, number of times patrol is to be carried out, and setting regarding whether or not to cause the patrol to be carried out, which determine the order of priority</u>, and the home page management unit transmits an HTML document which contains the update HTML data generated by the update data generation unit to the user terminal.

2.   (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the update HTML data contains banner advertisement data.

3. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the reception process of a mail message includes a process for sending a mail transmission request to the mail server, and a reception process of a mail message from the mail server.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the extraction process of update data of an HTML document stored in the home page database includes a process for reading out a latest first HTML document and a second HTML document having an update time a predetermined period of time before the current time from the home page database, and a process for extracting a mismatched data part of the first and second HTML documents.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the file search process in the management terminal includes a process for sending a file search request to the management terminal, and a reception process of an update file from the management terminal.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the storage device stores schedule data set with a predetermined cyclic period, and update data associated with the schedule data, and the search process of schedule data in the storage device includes a search process of update data associated with a schedule corresponding to the current time.

7.   (Currently amended) A home page automatic update method comprising:

reading out an HTML document from a home page database in response to a request from a user terminal, and transmitting the readout HTML document to the user terminal;

extracting update data by executing in turn a reception process of a mail message stored in a mail server, an extraction process of update data of an HTML document stored in the home page database, a file search process in a management terminal, and a search process of schedule data in a storage device on the basis of a ~~variable selected from the group consisting of a predetermined~~ patrol time, a ~~predetermined~~ patrol order, a ~~predetermined~~ number of times patrol is to be carried out, and a ~~predetermined~~ setting regarding whether or not to cause patrol to be carried out, ~~and any combinations thereof~~;

<u>determining, in advance, the order of priority for accessing the mail server, the home page database, the management terminal, and the storage device;</u> and

generating update HTML data on the basis of the extracted update data,

wherein the transmitting the readout HTML document includes transmitting the HTML document including the update HTML data.